

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the Application.

1. (previously amended) A method of treating a dental root canal, comprising:
 - (a) gaining access to the dental root canal;
 - (b) introducing a flowable photosensitiser into the dental root canal;
 - (c) activating the flowable photosensitiser by exposing the walls of the dental root canal to light via an optical fibre within the dental root canal to kill bacteria within the dental root canal and an associated pulp chamber; and
 - (d) obturating the dental root canal.
2. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein obturating the dental root canal includes obturating the dental root canal with at least one of gutta percha, silver and titanium points.
3. (previously amended) The method according to claim 2 wherein:
 - obturating the dental root canal includes obturating the dental root canal with an obturation device;
 - the obturation device includes gutta percha carried on a rod-like carrier; and
 - the obturation device is shaped and dimensioned so that upon forcing the obturation device into the dental root canal, said gutta percha is deformed and fills the dental root canal.
4. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein obturating the dental root canal includes obturating the dental root canal with a curable filling material.

5. (previously amended) The method according to claim 4 wherein the curable filling material is cured by irradiation with light through the optical fibre within the dental root canal.

6. (previously amended) The method according to claim 5 wherein the optical fibre used for activating the flowable photosensitiser is used for curing the curable filler material.

7. (previously amended) The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the optical fibre has a substantially isotropic tip.

8. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims in which~~ of claim 1 wherein the optical fibre has a spherical or cylindrical portion at or close to the distal end to spread light around and along the dental root canal.

9. (previously amended) A kit of articles for facilitating treatment of a dental root canal which comprises:

- (a) a flowable photosensitiser;
- (b) an optical fibre having a portion at or close to the distal end which is shaped to spread radiation around and along the dental root canal, the optical fibre being adapted for introduction into the dental root canal so that the tip is capable of reaching the apical third of the dental root canal, the optical fibre being connectable proximally with means for generating laser light; and
- (c) obturating means for sealing the dental root canal.

10. (previously amended) The kit according to claim 9 wherein the flowable sensitiser includes a dilute aqueous solution of toluidine blue.

11. (previously amended) The kit according to claim 9 wherein the obturating means includes at least one of a preformed plug of gutta percha, silver points and titanium points.

12. (previously amended) The kit according to any one of the claims 9 to 11, inclusive, wherein the flowable sensitiser is contained in a cartridge which includes a delivery tube for introducing the flowable photosensitiser into the dental root canal.

13. (previously amended) The kit according to claim 9 wherein the obturating means includes a flowable, curable sealing composition.

14. (currently amended) The kit according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 13, inclusive,~~ 9 wherein the distal portion of the optical fibre includes a translucent polymer composition containing a minor amount of a dispersed pigment sufficient to cause said laser light transmitted by the optical fibre to be scattered around the dental root canal.

15. (currently amended) The kit according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 14, inclusive,~~ 9 wherein the distal portion of the optical fibre is formed by polymerising a light-curable polymerisable composition on an end of the optical fibre.

16. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]The~~ kit according to ~~any one claims 8 to 15~~ 9 wherein the optical fibre ~~(4,20)~~ has a substantially isotropic tip ~~(5,21)~~ so that it is capable of irradiating the interior of the dental root canal in an arc of up to 360[°]degrees.

17. (currently amended) A process of manufacturing a set of articles intended for use in performing a dental root canal procedure, comprising: ~~Use in the manufacture of articles for facilitating sterilising and sealing of a dental root canal, said articles comprising:~~

- (a) providing at least one article including a flowable photosensitiser;
- (b) providing at least one article including an optical fibre which is shaped and dimensioned to pass into a dental root canal to the region of the apex thereof, the optical fibre being connectable proximally with means for generating laser light at a wavelength which is capable of being absorbed by the flowable photosensitiser and the optical fibre having a distal portion which is shaped to spread said laser light around and along the dental root canal; and
- (c) providing at least one article including an obturating means for sealing the dental root canal.

18. (currently amended) ~~[[Use]]~~ The process according to claim 17 in which the flowable photosensitiser is an aqueous dye.

19. (currently amended) ~~[[Use]]~~ The process according to claim 18 in which the flowable photosensitiser is toluidine blue in aqueous solution.

20. (currently amended) ~~[[Use]]~~ The process according to any one of claims 17 to 19, inclusive, in which the obturating means includes gutta percha supported on a rod-like support.

21. (currently amended) ~~[[Use]]~~ The process according to any one of claims 17 to 19, inclusive, in which the obturating means includes a light curable resin composition.

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The process according to claim 17 wherein the optical fibre has a substantially isotropic distal tip and is free from an internally reflecting layer. Use, in the manufacture of a kit of parts for use in sterilizing and sealing a dental root canal (2), the kit of parts comprising:-

- (a) — a flowable photosensitiser comprising photosensitive dye;
- (b) — an optical fibre (4,20) which is connectable proximally to means for generating laser light at a wavelength capable of being absorbed by the photosensitiser and which has a substantially isotropic distal tip (5,21) which is free from an internally reflecting layer tip (5) being shaped and dimensioned so that it can be moved along the canal to activate the photosensitiser; and
- (c) — obturating means for sealing the canal comprising a preformed plug of gutta percha, or silver or titanium points or a flowable, photo-curable sealing composition.

24. (new) The process according to claim 23 wherein the obturating means for sealing the dental root canal includes at least one of gutta percha, silver, titanium points and a flowable photo-curable sealing composition.